

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6124

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUGHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ATHENS 8244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON THE GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 8193

1. THE FORTHCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, GREECE'S APPROACH TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE GREEK MEDIA TODAY (AUGUST 11), WITH ALL PAPERS INDICATING THESE ACTION HAVE REDUCED THE DANGER OF CONFRONTATION WITH TURKEY. THE PRESS ESSENTIALLY HAS CON-
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TINUED TO SUPPORT THE GOG'S DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES (EXCEPT

FOR RIGHTISH ELERTHEROS COSMOS, CONSERVATIVE ESTIA AND POR-PASOK ATHINAIKI). MOST NEWSPAPERS NOTE EDITORIALY THAT THE CRISIS IS LIKELY TO BE A PROLONGED ONE AND STRESS THAT GREECE, ALREADY IN A HIGH DEGREE OF READINESS, MUST REMAIN INTERNALLY STRONG AND UNITED AND FURTHER MOBILIZE ALL HER RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN HER THROUGHOUT THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD.

2. THE TOP STORY IS THE IMMINENT CONVENING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, POSSIBLY TOMORROW, AND THE ATTENDANCE BY FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. WHILE MOST REPORTS SEE THE APPROACH TO THE UN AS A POSITIVE STEP, THERE IS A SMATTERING OF COMMENT THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE NO WOTHWHILE SOLUTION. ANOTHER PROMINENT ITEM IS PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' SESSION YESTERDAY WITH HIS GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE (THE SMALL CABINET) FOLLOWED BY A MEETING WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES. TOGETHERNESS AND PREPAREDNESS IS THE IMAGE CONVEYED BY THE PRESS.

3. COVERAGE IS ALSO GIVEN TO REPORTS THAT THE U.S. AND THE EC MEMBER NATIONS ARE MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO HEAD OFF ANY CLASH BETWEEN THE TWO NATO ALLIES. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS IN FRANCE ON THE GREEK-TURKISH SITUATION, URGING RESTRAINT AND, AS PRINTED HERE, THAT THERE IS NO "LEGAL BASIS" FOR A MILITARY CLASH ARE WIDELY REPORTED. COMMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN YESTERDAY RECEIVED PLAY. WHILE MUCH OF THE MEDIA ALLUDES TO WASHINGTON'S NEUTRALITY IN THE DISPUTE, SOME OF THE ULTRA-LEFT, ANTI-U.S. PRESS CONDEMNS THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AS FAVORING TURKEY BY VIRTUE OF HIS FAILURE TO SIDE WITH GREECE.

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